



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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**NEWS SUMMARY:        Marijuana Growers Sentenced**

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced that on March 10, 2004, United States District Judge William Griesbach sentenced **Donald E. Otto** (7/3/54) to 57 months' imprisonment and **Sandra J. Otto** (3/31/58) to 37 months' imprisonment for their roles in a marijuana growing operation based at their home in Dodge County. Donald Otto and Sandra Otto also were ordered to spend 4 years on supervised release following their prison terms. Judge Griesbach previously sentenced a third person charged in the case, **Robert Dillon** (8/29/54), to 51 months' imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release.

On June 24, 2003, a grand jury had indicted the Ottos and Dillon on various drug-related charges. On October 9, 2003, Donald and Sandra Otto each entered guilty pleas to Count One of the indictment, which charged them with conspiring to manufacture marijuana. On October 10, 2003, Dillon entered a guilty plea to Count Three of the indictment, which charged him with manufacturing marijuana.

Prior to the indictment, an investigation by the Dodge County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation – Narcotics Bureau (DCI-NB) had resulted in the seizure of over 425 marijuana plants. Over 300 of the plants were being grown using a hydroponic system in the Ottos' basement. Additional plants were recovered from outdoor locations, including from property owned by Dillon in Kenosha County. Agents also seized 40 firearms and over 12,000 rounds of ammunition.

As part of their guilty pleas, the Ottos and Dillon agreed to forfeit the proceeds of their criminal activities and the properties used to facilitate the grow operation, including: (1) the Ottos' residence at W554 Sun Road, Juneau; (2) Dillon's residence at 6130 Springbrook Road, Pleasant Prairie; (3) a Ford truck; (4) 40 firearms; (5) 12,000 rounds of ammunition; and (6) over \$95,000 cash.

This case was investigated by the Dodge County Sheriff's Department and DCI-NB. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration also provided assistance. The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Richard G. Frohling for prosecution.

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